

REMARKS

Consideration of the application and the amendments above is respectfully requested.

In the specification, a new paragraph to be inserted on page 1, line 5, was substituted for the words appearing after the section entitled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" to provide the family history of the present application. This amendment does not add new matter to the present application.

No new matter is being added to the above-captioned application by the submission of the Abstract of the Invention, because it is identical to that in the priority document PCT/US03/10740.

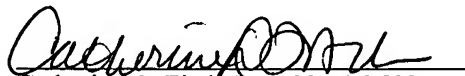
For the Examiner's convenience, a separate sheet for the Abstract of the Invention (page 189) is enclosed for inclusion with the specification of the U.S. National Phase Application being filed.

Claims 1 to 29 were pending during Chapter II of the PCT application. Claims 24 to 29 have been cancelled. Claims 1 to 23 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully contend that the application is allowable, and a favorable response from the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Catherine D. Fitch, Reg. No. 36,502
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
Tel: (732)594-4283

September 29, 2004

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Novel compounds of the structural formula (I) are antagonists and/or inverse agonists of the Cannabinoid-1 (CB1) receptor and are useful in the treatment, prevention and suppression of diseases mediated by the CB1 receptor. The compounds of the present invention are useful as centrally acting
5 drugs in the treatment of psychosis, memory deficits, cognitive disorders, migraine, neuropathy, neuro-inflammatory disorders including multiple sclerosis and Guillain-Barre syndrome and the inflammatory sequelae of viral encephalitis, cerebral vascular accidents, and head trauma, anxiety disorders, stress, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, and schizophrenia. The compounds are also useful
10 for the treatment of substance abuse disorders, the treatment of obesity or eating disorders, as well as the treatment of asthma, constipation, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, and cirrhosis of the liver.